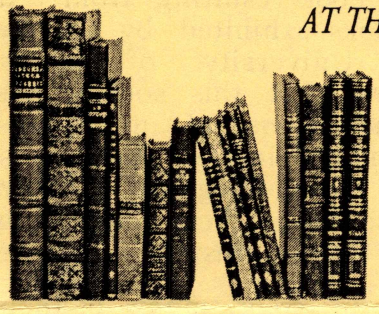
A New Book from the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles

SLITHY TOVES

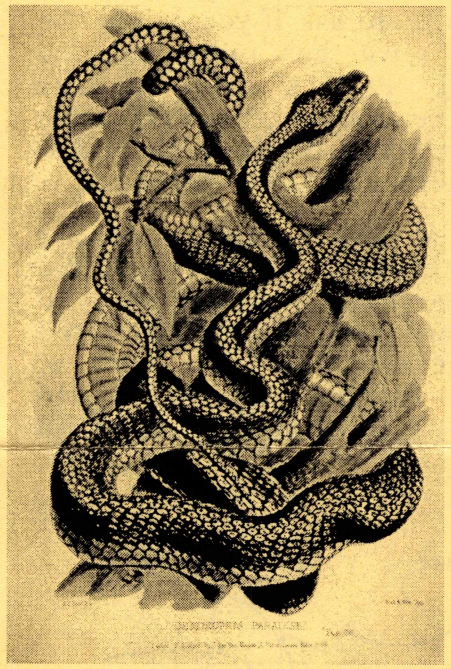
ILLUSTRATED CLASSIC HERPETOLOGICAL BOOKS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS IN PICTURES AND CONVERSATIONS

by Sally Haines



84 Illustrations in Full Color

THIS BOOK IS IN THE FORM OF A GALLERY GUIDE TO A REMARKABLE EXHIBIT OF ILLUSTRATED HERPETOlogical books dating from the 16th to the 20th centuries. It results from a display arranged by the Kenneth Spencer Research Library of the University of Kansas on the occasion of the 1996 SSAR meeting held at the university. Books such as these, many of which have exquisitely handcolored illustrations by some of the greatest natural history artists, are today kept under lock and key in institutional libraries and therefore are scarcely known to most herpetologists, but the enthusiasm of the SSAR conference goers for the Kansas exhibit has encouraged us to make this printed version available. The author, Sally Haines, Associate Special Collections Librarian at the Spencer Library, is in charge of the natural history collections.



The bulk of this volume consists of full-color reproductions of illustrations from classic works together with extensive captions containing information about the authors, the artists, and the books. It is an iconography of herpetology and an essential part of the history of the field.

Organization of the Book

Myth versus Reality: the Challenge of Illustrating Amphibians and Reptiles, *by Kraig Adler*
Part I — Herpetology to 1758: The Pre-Linnaean Period
Part II — Herpetology after 1758: Beyond Linnaeus
Part III — West of Eden: New World Herps
Part IV — The Seven Deadly Sins and other Evils: Herps as Symbol
References to Historical and Biographical Works
List of All Illustrated Herpetological Works in the Spencer Library
Chronological Index to Illustrated Herpetological Works in the Spencer Library

Some of the earliest books represented in this volume are by Pliny, Abbatius, Topsell, Seba, Linnaeus, and Rösel von Rosenhof, with later ones by Daudin, Rüppell, Bonaparte, Schlegel, and Fayrer, among many others. There is a special section on books about the Western Hemisphere, including works by Sloane, Catesby, Bartram, Spix, Holbrook, Cuvier, and Agassiz. The final section, on herps as symbol, includes religious manuscripts, sea serpents, astronomical atlases, and even illustrations from the works of John Milton, Mark Twain, and Walt Kelly. Included is a detailed listing of all illustrated herpetological works in the Spencer Library, which holds one of the great collections of natural history books. This volume represents a veritable treasure trove of some of the finest illustrations of amphibians and reptiles ever produced in book form and extensive bibliographic information about them.

Specifications: 190 pages, 8½ × 11 inches (21.5 × 28 cm), full color throughout (84 illustrations). Softcover. ISBN 0–916984–53–2. To be published December 2000.

PRICES: Pre-publication price to SSAR members US$~~XX~~; Institutions and non-members US$~~XX~~. *SHIPPING COST:* USA address, add US$3; non-USA address, add US$6

SEND ORDERS TO: Dr. Robert D. Aldridge, SSAR Publications Secretary, Department of Biology, Saint Louis University, 3507 Laclede Avenue, Saint Louis, Missouri 63103–2010, USA (*telephone:* area code 314, 977–3916 or –1710; *fax:* 314, 977–3658; *e-mail:* ssar@slu.edu). Please make checks payable to "SSAR." Overseas orders must be paid in USA funds using a draft drawn on American banks or by International Money Order. Orders may also be charged to MasterCard or VISA (please provide the account number and card expiration date). SSAR membership information and a complete list of all Society publications can be obtained on request to Dr. Aldridge.

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27 July 2000

Dear Colleagues:

In December, SSAR will publish a new book resulting from a display of illustrated classic herpetological books exhibited by the Kenneth Spencer Research Library at the University of Kansas (see enclosure). This will be the first time that this society has ever published a book focused on fine illustrations of amphibians and reptiles, but we feel that there is enormous interest for this subject among both professional and amateur herpetologists. The interest in antiquarian books on this topic has never been higher and we believe that our new book will elevate that interest to a new level.

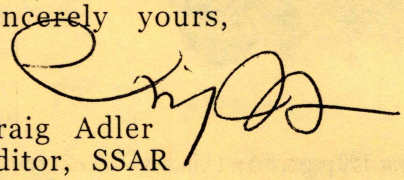
This book contains 84 illustrations in full color, many of them full-page or even double-page in size, and there will be color throughout the volume. It will, therefore, be an expensive book to publish and we are therefore appealing for donations to be used to subsidize the printing costs. This would allow us to offer the book at a lower price and increase its distribution to a broader audience. (We hope to price the book at $50.) Coincidentally, we hope this book will increase the appreciation for finely illustrated works on amphibians and reptiles.

Because of your interest in such books, I write to ask if you might be willing to donate to this project. All donors--whether individuals or companies--will be listed on the special "Patrons" page at the beginning of the book (unless you wish to remain anonymous) and, needless to say, receive a gratis copy of the book. Those in the USA, at least, can deduct such donations for Internal Revenue purposes.

Checks should be made out to "SSAR" and sent to me for proper accounting, before I send them along to the SSAR Treasurer. We already have a couple commitments of $500 and one donation in excess of $3000, but donations of any size will be gratefully accepted and acknowledged in the book. Please indicate the exact form of your name as you wish it to appear on the Patrons page. We would need to have your response no later than 1 September in order to keep the book on schedule.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,



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